



Supporting Africa's journey towards sustainable development



UNEP in AFRICA

Africa faces serious environmental challenges, including land degradation, deforestation, biodiversity loss and extreme vulnerability to climate change. But the region – which is home to roughly 15% of the world's population as well as some of its most iconic species – has enormous potential for sustainable growth and environmental conservation.

The Regional Office for Africa ensures that UNEP's programmes are implemented effectively and coherently in response to environmental and sustainability challenges throughout the African region. We also facilitate UNEP's contribution to the UN's national-level implementation plans across the continent. Through all of this work, we have proved to be a powerful partner in helping Africa achieve a more sustainable future.

Our work directly supports the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Helped **10 African countries** develop integrated waste management strategies

Supported the **development of clean & renewable energy** through the African Renewable Energy Initiative

Facilitated the launch of the regional platform on **Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA)**

Delivering on the SDGs



We support key processes led by the African Union Commission, including by hosting the Secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and providing support to the African Group of Negotiators to the Council of African Heads of States on Climate Change. Through this work, we empowered the region to be an active contributor to COP21 and facilitated the launch of key programmes such as the African Renewable Energy Initiatives.



We are advising ten African countries on how to “green” their economies and supporting green business development in another six countries. The latter work is supporting more than 30 green business projects.



We mainstream environmental sustainability across all of the UN's operations in Africa by contributing to the UN's national-level implementation plans (UN Development Assistance Frameworks). We recently received an award from the Regional UN Development Group for our outstanding contribution and support to UNDAF processes in the region.



We cleaned up a site contaminated by tetraethyl lead in Sierra Leone and supported the first Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention, a treaty of African nations that prohibits the import of hazardous waste. We are also helping 10 African countries develop waste management strategies and building capacity on waste management through universities.



Following on work we have done to promote food security in ten African countries, in July 2015 we facilitated the launch of the Regional Platform on Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA). Four countries have launched national branches so far; 34 more are expected to follow suit.



Through the African Rift Geothermal (ARGeo) Development Project, we support African countries to leverage public-private partnerships to develop geothermal energy. Work has begun on geothermal sites in Kenya and Ethiopia; projects in Eritrea, Tanzania and Uganda are also in development.

Our Plan

Promoting access to renewable energy: We will strengthen our support to African countries to develop clean energy through initiatives such as African Renewable Energy Initiative.

Fostering health and environment: We will expand our partnership with the World Health Organization to gather data on health and the environment and influence relevant policies. We will also help nearly three dozen countries implement action plans to follow up on the Libreville Declaration on health and environment in Africa. And we will continue to strengthen countries' implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and waste.

Breaking down silos to promote integrated environmental management: We will build on existing programmes on food security (EBAFOSA), green economy, and climate change adaptation (African Adaptation Initiative) to help the continent respond to climate change and other environmental stressors.

Fighting the illegal trade in wildlife: We will support the implementation of the African Strategy on Combatting Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna through a range of measures, including regulations, laws, environmental policies, awareness campaigns, and the promotion of alternative livelihoods.

Supporting environmental education and employment: We will strengthen our engagement with the African Union, regional economic communities and the private sector to support green economy entrepreneurship, building on the Switch Africa Green project, while promoting environmental education among young students.

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